

House Resolution 518

By: Representatives Manning of the 32nd, Byrd of the 20th, Talton of the 145th, Neal of the 1st, Sinkfield of the 60th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Children: Newborns to Age Five; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's children are Georgia's future; and

4 WHEREAS, preschool children are confronted with many crucial developmental tasks,
5 including developing small and large motor skills, learning to speak and developing
6 vocabulary, developing self-confidence, developing the ability to play cooperatively with
7 other children, learning to share and respect the rights of others, developing hand eye
8 coordination, learning to feed and dress themselves, learning to solve simple problems
9 through reasoning, and learning to express feelings and ideas;

10 WHEREAS, to develop to their full potential, preschool children need a loving, nurturing
11 relationship with their parents or guardians; good nutrition; screening for developmental and
12 health problems; good role models; and adequate exercise, stimulation, play, and
13 communication; and

14 WHEREAS, the youngest children cannot speak for themselves, and a preschool child who
15 is experiencing a lack of some element vital for healthy development may not get the help
16 needed; and

17 WHEREAS, one cost of our mobile society is that parents often do not have an extended
18 family to advise and help with rearing children, and some parents need education about child
19 development stages or other aspects of parenting to help their children develop to their fullest
20 potential;

21 WHEREAS, better coordination of existing programs and services could help identify all of
22 Georgia's children who need some assistance to thrive; and

1 WHEREAS, a careful study of existing programs and services would be a first step toward
2 ensuring that all of Georgia's children are safe, healthy, and growing toward successful lives.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
4 there is created the House Study Committee on Children: Newborns to Age Five to be
5 composed of 24 members. Five members of the House of Representatives shall be appointed
6 to the committee by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House
7 of Representatives shall appoint four additional members to include a dietitian, a child care
8 provider, an employee of a county health department, and a representative of the business
9 community. The committee shall include four ex officio members or their designees: the
10 commissioner of the Department of Early Care and Learning; the director of the Family
11 Health Unit of the Public Health Division of the Department of Human Resources; the State
12 School Superintendent; and the director of Smart Start. Additionally, the committee shall
13 include a representative from the School of Family and Consumer Sciences of the University
14 of Georgia; the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic of Emory University; the Association
15 of Pediatricians; the American Academy of Pediatrics; Family Connection Partnership; the
16 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The
17 Governor shall appoint four members, to include a parent of a child who is age five or
18 younger, a representative of a local Family Connection organization, a representative of the
19 cooperative extension service, and a person with expertise in early childhood development.
20 The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.
21 The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
23 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
24 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
25 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
26 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
27 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. Expenses of committee members
28 who are state officials or employees shall be reimbursed by their agencies. The legislative
29 members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8
30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated from funds appropriated to the House of
31 Representatives. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
32 member of the committee for more than seven days unless additional days are authorized.
33 The committee is authorized to use funds available from federal grants or other grants for the
34 purposes of the committee. Staff support for the committee may be provided by the
35 Department of Early Care and Learning and the Family Connection Partnership. In the event

- 1 the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
- 2 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2005. The
- 3 committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2005.